

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04  
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /075 W  
-----035133 082307Z /66

R 091400Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6800

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 22905

USMTN USEEC

E.O. 11652: N:A

TAGS: ETRD GATT FR

SUBJ: NOTIFICATIONS OF SERVICE RESTRAINTS IN MRN

REF: STATE 180516 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO RESTRAINTS ON THE SUPPLY OF SERVICES INTENDED AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO INCURANCE OPERATIONS BY FOREIGN FIRMS. IT IS NATURAL FOR FRENCH SHIPPERS TO PRFER INSURANCE WITH FRENCH COMPANIES, JUST AS THE AMERICAN MULTIMATIONALS PREFER AMERICAN FIRMS. AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANIES DO OPERATE IN FRANCE, HOWEVER, AND THE EMBASSY HAD HEARD NO COMPLAINTS REGARDING THEIR OPERATIONS. REINSURANCE PRESENTS SOME DIFFICULTY SINCE IT MUST BE CONTRACTED FOR OONLY WITH OTHER COMPANIES AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN FRANCE, BUT THIS RULE APPLIES TO ALL COMPANIES.

2. EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW OF ANY CASE REGARDING NEW  
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INVESTMENT IN THE INSURANCE FIRLE WHERE GOF HAS REFUSED AUTHORIZATIO, PROVIDED THE COMPANY MEETS LOCAL REGULATIONS AND BONDING REQUIREMENTS. WE DEFER TO USEC REGARDING ANY POSSIBLE DISCRIMINATION DUE TO EC REGULATIONS AFFECTING INVESTMENT IN THE INSURANCE FIELD. IN 1975 AND 1976 A GOOD MANY EMBASSYM MANHOURS WERE DEVOTED TO INFORMAL REPRESENTATIONS WITH RESPECT TO

THREE U.S. INVESTMENT PROPOSALS IN THE FIELD OF  
COMPUTER PERIPHERALS. THE THEN MINISTER OF FOREIGN  
TRADE, M. RAYMOND BARRE, VERY CONSIDERATELY LOOKED INTO  
THE THREE CASES INVOLVED AND CAME BACK WITH THE REPORT  
THAT THE FRENCH RECORD WAS VERY GOOD, WITH VIRTUALLY  
NO REFUSALS OF ANY U.S. INVESTMENT--THOUGH THERE MAY  
HAVE BEEN INSTANCES WHERE THE GOF HAD FAILED TO APPROVE  
AN APPLICATION. IN THE THREE CASES INVOLVED, AFTER WE  
HAD PRETTY MUCH GIVEN UP HOPE IN THE EMBASSY (AS HAD  
THE LOCAL ATTORNEYS FOR THE COMPANIES CONCERNED),  
NOTIFICATION OF THE APPROVAL OF THE INVESTMENTS WAS  
RECEIVED. THIS WAS AFTER A DELAY OF SIXTEEN MONTHS.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES FRENCH INSURANCE LAW IS OPERATED IN  
A WAY WHICH DOES NOT IMPEDE U.S. TRADE. WE KNOW OF  
NO TRADE-RELATED SERVICE PROBLEMS IN FRANCE. FOR AWHILE  
IT APPEARED THAT NEWLY-PASSED ANTI-BOYCOTT  
LEGISLATION MIGHT IMPEDE ALL INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS  
FOR SHIPMENTS TO BOYCOTTED AREAS, BUT SUBSEQUENT  
DEVELOPMENTS HAVE IN EFFECT RENDERED THIS LEGISLATION  
LARGELY INEFFECTIVE. (SEE PARIS A-273 OF JULY 21, 1977)  
AND PARIS 22459).  
HARTMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, TRADE CONTROLS, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, BUSINESS FIRMS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 180516  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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